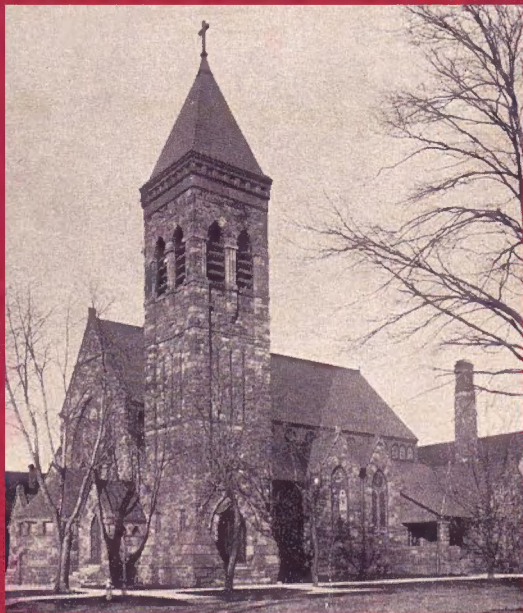


ST. JOHN'S PARISH

DECATUR

1855—1899

ILLINOIS



*"Walk about Zion, and go round about her:
and tell the towers thereof. Mark well her
bulwarks, set up her houses: that ye may tell
them that come after."—Psalm xlviii: 11, 12.*

St. John's Parish

Decatur, Illinois

Diocese of Springfield



*A brief record of what it has been
since the year 1855, and of what it
is in the year 1899.*

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Introduction

Too great content with the present brings carelessness as to the future. Too great discontent with the present is apt to be based upon an ignorance of the past. This little book is purposed to prevent a satisfaction that breeds indifference and a dissatisfaction that causes discouragement with things as they are in St. John's Church. The following record should suggest that the time and resources of the Parish have been well employed. There is much to show for them. When one considers the difficulties, how really little of time and means there were to work with, one must acknowledge that much has been accomplished. If there rises a tendency to be disheartened or dissatisfied with the condition of the Parish to-day, let it be remembered how creditable it is that from such relatively small causes, such good results have sprung. And, on the other hand, if there is a tendency comfortably to enjoy those things which are favorable, without thought of things that may be lacking, let the example of those years in the past when self-sacrifice was not shrunk from and the future not lost sight of, enter in to stimulate all to renewed efforts to supplement and round out the work so well begun.

It is in order that the younger generation in the church now, and the generations yet to come may know somewhat of the Parish's past, and from that knowledge be both encouraged and incited to an interested activity that the glimpse of what St. John's Church has been since 1855, is given in the following pages.

H. W. R.

The Corporation

Rector

REV. HENRY W. RUFFNER, M. A.

Wardens

RECTOR'S
W. J. QUINLAN

PARISH
LOWBER BURROWS

Vestrymen

E. P. BISHOP C. C. LE FORGEE
B. F. BOBO R. A. WILSON
S. B. WINHOLTZ

Clerk

R. A. WILSON

Treasurer

E. P. BISHOP

Lay Reader

HUGH W. HOUSUM

History of the Parish.

I. From the Organization to the Consecration of the First Church Building.

(Reprint from the "Parish Register," published in 1885.)

The Parish was organized in September, 1855. The Rev. S. R. Child was soon thereafter called to the Rectorship, and entered upon his duties in October following. At that date the entire membership consisted of less than a dozen.

Mr. Child was entertained on his arrival at the hospitable home of Mr. Cyril Fuller, the Senior Warden, and the most active member then in the matter of organization and lay work. Here he remained with his family until a house could be secured, and in a short time he rented and took possession of the one-story frame dwelling now standing on the southeast corner of William and Broadway, where he very shortly afterward, Nov. 14, 1855, died, holding, I think, but one service after his arrival. This was held in the lower room of the old Masonic Hall at the northwest corner of the new square, now occupied by the Haworth Block.

It is hardly necessary to state that we had no organ in those days, not even a cabinet organ, and even Prayer Books were scarce. The Chants and Hymns were sung, however, whenever a member could be found courageous enough to start them. As for the former, each canticle had its own Chant, and there was no difficulty in the way of everybody knowing what to sing. But with the Hymns, it was different. They were in greater variety, and the congregation were not furnished then as now with either a choir

to lead or a Hymnal with music set to each hymn. Thus it became necessary to announce the name of the tune to be used, as well as the number of the hymn. This duty was left, however, to the "pitcher," and I do not remember that the awkwardness of the interruption occasioned by the announcement of the tune by title, by a member of the congregation, had any perceptible effect upon the gravity of the worshippers, as it certainly would now, although the taking of the pitch, as it was termed, just before that, by sounding four distinct notes, audible to everybody, did sometimes make strangers from the east prick their ears, at least.

The vacancy caused by the death of the Rev. S. R. Child was not filled until April, 1857, when the Rev. Wm. L. Bostwick was elected to the Rectorship and entered upon his duties, holding services in the old Masonic Hall, before mentioned. This was a most inconveniently arranged room for the purpose, as it was occupied as a school during the week, and was quite filled with the usual school desks and benches, the latter being of the proper height for children only. Both desk and bench being firmly fastened to the floor, it made standing and kneeling in the aisles a necessity.

To add to the inconvenience, some two or three of the numerous religious denominations seeking a foothold in Decatur had secured the use of the room in advance, at, to them, the most convenient hours, and as a consequence we had to slip in between. Thus the only hour we could find for a daylight service was at 1 o'clock P. M. Even then we were not sure of our ground if the preacher preceding us happened to be one of the long-winded kind. The result being that we were not infrequently obliged to hang around the door until he finished. The incongruity of this state of things was made ludicrously apparent on one occasion when a certain preacher so full of his subject that there seemed to be no end to his "lastly"—observing, perhaps, the uneasiness of some of the "Episcopals" about the door at being

kept waiting so long past the appointed hour, and also the presence of the Rector in his surplice, who had quietly slipped into a corner—wound up his discourse with a vigorous blow upon the dusty cushion supporting the Bible, and shocked the little band of "Episcopals" and the Rector especially, by roaring in thunder tones, "Now come on with your preacher!"

It was while occupying this school-room that the first Confirmation was administered. It took place in the then new Methodist Church on the corner now occupied by the National Bank and others, the church being kindly loaned for the occasion. But few persons then in Decatur had ever seen a Bishop in his robes, much less had ever heard the eloquence and charming delivery of a prelate such as was the Rt. Rev. Henry J. Whitehouse, then Bishop of the Diocese of Illinois. It was therefore a most interesting occasion to many and drew out an unusually large congregation.

The inconvenience of the Masonic Hall as a place of worship soon stimulated the few members and friends of the parish to provide better accommodations, and this was done by hiring an "upper room" over a store on North Water street, and furnishing it with benches, a platform and communion rail. Here was held the second confirmation, April 25, 1858.

Early in 1858 it was resolved by the vestry "That we buy a lot and build a church edifice, the two to cost not less than \$1,500," and a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions therefor. Very shortly thereafter the committee reported some \$1,300 subscribed, and immediately the present lot occupied by the church was purchased at a cost of \$500, and the work of building was completed in the fall of the same year, the kindly and substantial aid of friends of the Rev. Wm. L. Bostwick in the east enabling the vestry to build at a much larger cost than they were able to do of themselves.

The plan of the church, as adopted by the building committee, provided for a cross at each gable of the building, but this feature had escaped the attention of at least one of the vestry, whose early training led him to regard such symbols as "Romish," and when he discovered them, for the first time, ready to be put in their places on the building, he lost no time in giving emphatic expression to his objections as well as his indignation. The crosses were duly set up, however, where they remain to this day, the first ever set up in Decatur, in a public place, at least, and an example evidently considered wholesome by Protestant bodies here, who have copied them on a much larger scale.

The first Christmas in the new church building was duly celebrated, and I believe, also, for the first time in Decatur by any religious body as a Holy Day, for I well remember the comments of some members of other churches at the time upon what they were pleased to term a "Popish custom," and quite foreign to Protestant bodies.

Here, too, was set up for the first time in Decatur the children's Christmas tree, and the custom of decorating the church at Christmas with evergreens, and at Easter with flowers, was introduced, both of which pretty and appropriate customs were soon copied by most of the other religious bodies in the city, each vying with the other in the extent and elaborateness of the display.

The Rev. Wm. L. Bostwick resigned the rectorship in April, 1859, and was succeeded by the Rev. E. P. Wright in June following. About this time the vestry resolved to reseat the church, and the walnut seats now in the chapel were provided, with the understanding that thereafter the pews should be rented, as a means of providing the necessary revenue. This was a vexed question, however, as many of the subscriptions to the building fund had been with the express understanding that the church was to be free, but the rented pew party prevailed, and the uniform price of ten dollars was fixed upon each pew, the choice

being awarded to those who offered the highest premium above that figure.

The Rev. Edward P. Wright resigned in May, 1860, and in August of the same year was succeeded by the Rev. Wm. M. Steel, of Eufaula, Ala.

After a trial of the rented pew system for two years, it was unanimously resolved by the vestry to return to the original plan of free sittings, but allowing families to select such as they preferred, to furnish them as they pleased, and to enjoy the same, but not to the exclusion of others.

The Rev. Wm. Steel resigned in July, 1863, and was succeeded in September by the Rev. Silas Totten, D. D., LL. D.

Soon thereafter the question of raising a revenue by the renting of pews was renewed, and the question was submitted to a vote of the congregation. This brought out a large representation of those interested, and provoked a spirited discussion at a meeting of the congregation, Oct. 24, 1864, but the anti-pew renters prevailed, and the vestry was requested by a formal resolution to declare "the seats of this church free from all claims thereon by reason of priority of occupation, and to cause it to be made known at the morning and evening service, for the following three Sundays from this date, that all the seats in this church are free."

In connection with this subject, I may add that notwithstanding this formal notice, a number of the older families continued to occupy their accustomed pews, their preference being always kindly respected by the other members.

It was a wintry day in January, 1862, when the wardens and vestry met Bishop Whitehouse, then the guest of Judge Prather—whose residence was on the corner lot now occupied by the First Methodist Church—to conduct him to the church for its consecration. A long struggle had enabled the vestry to pay off the indebtedness contracted by the building committee in November, 1860, and it was a joyous day for the little band, when the Bishop met with them to

consecrate the result of their efforts. Appeal after appeal had been made, sacrifices, such as are rare nowadays, were continually made by a few devoted ones, and little by little the incubus of a debt, small it would seem now, but large for those times, was lifted, and scarcely no event in the history of the Parish since has brought more real joy and satisfaction to the members than did the service of consecration on that stormy day.

It was fearfully cold, but the blinding snow storm through which that little procession moved up Water street, was robbed of all its terrors by the consciousness that the end of the journey was to witness the fruition of one of their dearest hopes.

In the evening, instead of a service at the church, the members of the Parish were invited to meet the Bishop at Judge Prather's, and a large number was present. At a suitable time the Bishop gave them one of his charming talks, and so ended one of the happiest days St. John's Parish had ever seen.

L. B.

II. From the Consecration to the Selling of the First Church Building.

The building thus consecrated stood on North Water street and in time a Rectory was built just north of it. For over thirty years it was the center of the Parish life, where were administered baptisms, confirmations and communions, weddings and funerals, according to those rites and ceremonies by which the Prayer Book puts those who use it in touch with the dignity and beauty and strength of the Holy Catholic Church throughout the world.

Delegates, clerical and lay, from the Parish were active in the convention in December, 1877, when the present Diocese of Springfield was organized and the Rev. Dr. George F. Seymour, Dean of the General Theological Seminary of New York City, elected its first Bishop. It is of interest to note here that it was a delegate from St. John's

Church, Decatur, who placed in nomination the name of the Rev. Dr. Chas. R. Hale, Dean of the Cathedral at Davenport, for the office of Bishop Coadjutor in 1892.

But in time the dear old, but modest wooden building, clustered about as it was by so many sacred memories, had to be superseded by something better, because of the general march of improvement and the encroachments of business and the constantly increasing membership of the Parish. So was evolved the present new building.

But hallowed memories forbade the abandonment and desecration of the old church building erected thirty years before, and duly consecrated, and it was determined to preserve it by removal to the rear of the new building, to be used as a chapel, where it now stands, and, to the older members, represents the past, with many sacred associations.

In 1888 an effort was begun to provide a more commodious church building, and, to this end, two members of the parish took it upon themselves to purchase what seemed to them a desirable location, with the intention of offering it at cost to the vestry whenever they decided to enter upon the work of erecting a new building.

In 1889 their offer of the property, upon which the church now stands, was accepted, and in September, 1890, the corner-stone of the present structure was laid.

In October, 1891, the old church ground on North Water street was sold at public auction, the proceeds being devoted to defraying the cost of the new building and ground.

III. The New Church.

The services, upon Sept. 23, 1890, that marked the laying of the corner-stone of the new St. John's Church were most impressive. A temporary floor had been laid over the joists, which were already in place. Seats were provided for a great many, while others stood. A number of carriages were drawn up in easy hearing distance.

The services were according to the beautiful ritual of the Episcopal Church, and were conducted by Rt. Rev. George F. Seymour, S. T. D., LL. D., Bishop of this diocese, assisted by several rectors of neighboring parishes and the boy choir of St. John's, all in the vestments of their office. All the arrangements had been carefully made by the rector, Rev. M. M. Goodwin, so there was no jar to mar the solemnity of the occasion.

It was just at noon that the choir boys, followed by the wardens, rectors, and the Bishop came down Church street and paused at the corner of Eldorado street. Then the exercises began by singing the "Processional." At the proper place in the service Rev. M. M. Goodwin read the list of articles in the box deposited in the corner-stone, as follows:

Bible.

Prayer book and hymnal.

Journal of synod, 1889.

Digest of the canons, diocese of Springfield.

Church almanac, 1890.

The Churchman, The Living Church, city papers, the diocesan paper.

Autographs of contributors and friends of the church.

The form of service used in laying the corner-stone.

Names of the Bishop of the diocese, the rector of the parish, the vestry of St. John's Church, the building committee, the architect, the contractor, the superintendent of the work.

A history of the parish to date, Sept. 23, 1890.

The stone was put in place, the "Gloria" was sung, and then the Bishop introduced Rev. J. M. C. Fulton, D. D., of Jacksonville, an old-time friend of Mr. Goodwin. He made the address, closing with the following words:

"And as a parting word, when your beautiful church is finished and the Bishop consecrates it to the exclusive service of Almighty God, and the tribes come up hither and the seats are crowded and singing is attractive and the ser-

vice is stately and grand, again, I say, 'look not at the things which are seen.' A church or a congregation is not always successful, though it seems, and is often proclaimed so to be.

"You may have this completed church crowded to its very roof and multitudes of communicants about its altar. You may have a church of which men will speak in terms of unhesitating approval and upon whose clergy and people prelates may smile and which the rich and great may patronize, and yet it may be a church over which angels may weep and the heart of Jesus be saddened. How, you say, could this be true? It would be true if you were caught in the drift of popular opinion, it would be true if you were captured with 'the seen,' it would be true if all these things were used as ends and instead of means. It would be true if there were no deep spiritual work done here, if you never heard of sinners being converted and of penitents growing up in the beauty of sanctity. Only will there be joy in the presence of the angels, as the 'unseen' is more to you than the 'seen,' as 'the faith once delivered to the saints' links your souls to God with more than hooks of steel. As you are loyal to your Divine Head, faithful to his body, the Church diligent in the use of all that stimulates spirituality and have the consciousness that 'underneath are the everlasting arms,' the precious corner-stone, he that believeth in the scriptural, the apostolic, the catholic and the historic sense of the Church's credenda shall not make haste. May God give you all a rest to-day upon the 'chief corner-stone,' the 'sure foundation.'"

At the conclusion, the Bishop said he regretted to follow a speaker who had spoken so eloquently. He then made an address that was forcible and vigorous, concluding by bespeaking the services of Rev. Dr. Fulton as the principal speaker at the consecration of the church, when it shall be finished. The Bishop thanked the rector, the wardens and the vestrymen for their work, and then pronounced the benediction.

Tuesday in Easter week, 1892, was another notable day in the history of St. John's Parish. It saw the second consecration of a church edifice wherein the faithful might worship their God and receive of Him His gifts of grace. If the contrast between the first and second buildings and that between the single score of communicants in 1862 and the fourteen score in 1892 represented more than an outward growth, the spiritual progress of the parish had indeed been great.

The seven years since the day of consecration have not been without their discouragements, nor have they been without their blessings. They have left no burdens too heavy for the present to bear, and they have sustained and handed down much that may help them of to-day to come nearer to God.

The following appeared in "The Living Church" of April 30, 1892:

"The new church is, perhaps, the finest in the diocese. It is in thirteenth-century Gothic, and is built of variegated red sandstone from Wisconsin. It is 120 feet in length and 50 in width, not including the tower, in which is the main entrance. In front, two small porches flank the baptistry, which forms a circular projection directly under the great west window. The tower is 65 feet high in stone, with a parapet of copper 8 feet high, and a slate roof, making the total height about 100 feet, surmounted by a copper cross, 8 feet high. The nave is 40 feet high, with rich panelled black ash ceiling, supported by ornamental trusses, of old red oak. The nave proper is 45 by 60 feet. There is one broad center aisle and two side aisles. There are three entrances in front, the main entrance being from the tower, and two porch entrances on the north and south sides of the baptistry. The floor of the church is hard wood, oiled and polished. Two rows of columns support the handsomely arched truss roof.

"The chancel is heptagonal in shape and is large and com-

modious, the sanctuary being apsidal. It is lighted by twenty-one windows, three in each of its seven faces, amber and gold in tone, the cross being traced in jewels in each window."

It is interesting to note, as indicating the shifting character of the community in which the church ministers, that the average number confirmed annually has been about thirteen, while the average increase in the number of communicants has been only about seven.

Rectors

		CALLED	RESIGNED
1.	*Rev. Stephen R. Child	Sept. 10, 1855	(died) Nov. 14, 1855
2.	*Rev. William L. Bostwick	Apr. 13, 1857	Apr. 28, 1859
3.	Rev. E. P. Wright	June 20, 1859	May 13, 1860
4.	*Rev. William M. Steel	Aug. 6, 1860	July 6, 1863
5.	*Rev. Silas Totten, D. D., LL. D.	Sept. 7, 1863	Sept. 15, 1866
6.	*Rev. Samuel D. Pulford	Mch. 26, 1867	June 29, 1869
7.	Rev. Philip McKim	Nov. 2, 1869	Feb. 1871
91 8.	*Rev. W. W. De Wolf	July 8, 1872	(died) July 20, 1875
9.	Rev. S. H. Granberry	Feb. 16, 1876	before May, 1878
10.	Rev. Walter H. Moore	Dec. 31, 1878	Feb., 23, 1886
11.	Rev. A. Kinney Hall	July 8, 1886	Aug. 31, 1888
12.	Rev. Montgomery M. Goodwin	Nov. 7, 1888	July 1, 1893
	Rev. Geo. A. Wilkins	Priest in charge from Feb. 1. to May 1, 1894	
13.	Rev. Frank N. Atkin	Sept. 21, 1894	Nov. 30, 1897
	W. J. W. Bedford-Jones	Priest in charge from Dec. 1, 1897, to July 1, 1898	
14.	Rev. Henry W. Ruffner	May 16, 1898	

*Deceased

**Statistics of the Parish from 1868 to 1898.*

Date.	Baptized.	Confirmed.	Communicants	Sunday School.
1868	3	4	42	94
1869	7	7	34	45
1870	8	9	51	70
1871	....	....	....	....
1872	6	....	30	40
1873	19	34	61	101
1874	7	7	71	75
1875	10	....	70	75
1876	13	....	33	66
1877	9	10	52	70
1878	13	9	61	61
1879	22	1	70	97
1880	36	10	97	187
1881	25	38	136	160
1882	15	14	141	147
1883	22	19	165	150
1884	21	10	159	....
1885	18	8	155	92
1886	24	8	169	90
1887	17	27	202	103
1888	19	11	237	146
1889	16	16	259	131
1890	18	39	287	145
1891	6	....	275	128
1892	9	19	288	84
1893	10	12	288	58
1894	7	12	288	58
1895	13	26	250	84
1896	9	19	250	....
1897	11	8	250	86
1898	11	6	250	73
Total ..	424	383	....	....

*These figures are obtained from the tables of Parochial Statistics published in the journals of the annual diocesan synods.

The Choir.

The music of the service has always received the care and attention that so important a part of public worship deserves. Until 1887 the usual quartette or chorus choir led the singing of the service. In 1887 the rector, Rev. A. Kinney Hall, organized a vested choir of boys and men and himself was choir master. After experiencing the difficulties attaching to a boy choir in a church that has not a large appropriation for music and in a city no larger than Decatur, it was found to be wise to disband the chorus shortly after Easter in 1897.

Soon after, the present choir of men and women was organized and, following the custom that is establishing itself in places outside of the larger cities, vestments for the women were introduced.

The choir rolls show that it numbers to-day fifteen sopranos, three altos, five tenors, and seven basses, besides the boy crucifer and his two attendants. The officers are:

Choirmaster,	The Rector.
Organist,	Mr. Walter B. Shade.
Crucifer,	Master Walter Dinges.
Attendants,	Master Lewis Shade,
	Master Lloyd Rawley.
Librarians,	Mr. Chas. Wilson,
	Mr. William Hill.
Server,	Mr. Frank Howes.

Organizations

In the order of their inauguration

The Ladies' Aid Society.

The earliest available records of an Aid Society in St. John's Church is in the year 1873. Mrs. L. Burrows was Treasurer. Who was President does not appear. From the bank books it seems that the society then, as now, was given to making money.

In 1874 a supper was served in Power's store, which netted the society \$219.70. In 1875, Dec. 16 and 17, a "Martha Washington reception" was given, at which the gross receipts were \$319.90.

In 1880, May 14, a "Strawberry Festival" was held in the old tabernacle, which netted \$122.76.

In October, the same year, a lunch room realized for the treasury of the society \$190.62.

During these five years Mrs. L. Burrows continued treasurer. The society was given to good works, paid for a new furnace, furnished a rector's room at a cost of \$278.58, filled deficiencies, etc.

In 1882 the "Aid Society" was reorganized and had a long, useful life of ten years, during the rectorships of Rev. Walter H. Moore, Rev. A. Kinney Hall and Rev. M. M. Goodwin.

During this period the following ladies served the society as Presidents: Mrs. Lucy Durfee, Mrs. Isabelle Vennigerholz, Mrs. L. Burrows, Mrs. H. M. Summers; as Secretary and Treasurer: Mrs. L. L. Ferriss, Mrs. Lou Carter, Mrs. Minnie Hostetler, Mrs. E. C. Philbrook.

Much social and charitable work was done. Among the various ways in which money was raised was a paper carnival, musicales, addressing envelopes, apron sales, etc., etc.

The Aid Society had at one time some \$600 which was

invested at 8 per cent. This sum was donated to the building fund of St. John's and paid for the rose window in the west end of the new church.

Towards the close of the year 1893 the Aid Society practically disintegrated and when revived was reorganized as

St. John's Chapter.

Feb. 21, 1896, some thirty ladies met at the residence of Mrs. L. Burrows for the purpose of organizing a society looking towards church work.

Mrs. H. M. Summers was chosen Chairman; Mrs. E. C. Philbrook, Secretary.

Mrs. Summers, Mrs. B. K. Durfee, Mrs. Philbrook were chosen as a committee to draft a constitution.

Feb. 25, 1896.—At a second meeting, held this date, the committee offered a constitution of which the following is Article I:

This society shall be known as St. John's Chapter and shall be for the purpose of furthering union and acquaintance among church people and raising money for church purposes.

The other articles were those usually adopted for the government of societies in general.

At this meeting Mrs. H. M. Summers was chosen President; Mrs. Durfee, Vice-President; Mrs. E. C. Philbrook, Secretary; Mrs. M. P. Hostetler, Treasurer.

From Feb. 25 to June 1 the chapter raised by collection and "The Gibson Pictures" about \$150.

Oct. 5, 1896.—At the first meeting after the summer vacation, Mrs. Philbrook being out of the city and Mrs. Hostetler having resigned, Miss Burrows was made Secretary and Treasurer pro tem.

Upon Jan. 18, 1897, it was decided by a vote of the chapter to use such monies as should be raised to meeting the interest on the church debt as it became due—which has been done up to date.

The annual meeting upon the Monday after Easter was not held and on Sept. 30, 1897, an election was held, at which Mrs. H. M. Summers was elected President; Mrs. Stutzenberger, Vice-President; Mrs. Philbrook, Secretary and Treasurer.

During this year the ladies raised by dinners, sales, picnics, etc., \$479.00.

May 18, 1898.—The annual meeting, held this date at Mrs. L. Burrows', resulted in the election of Mrs. Sophia Shade, President; Miss Maude Burrows, Vice-President; Mrs. Philbrook, Secretary and Treasurer. Since Oct. 3, 1898, the chapter has raised in various ways \$371.02.

The annual meeting will be held on April 3, 1899, for election of officers, reports and business.

The Sanctuary Chapter.

The Sanctuary Chapter of St. John's Guild was organized in April, 1889, the Rev. Montgomery M. Goodwin being the rector of the church at that time. It was through his advice and instruction the organization was effected.

There were thirteen or fourteen original members and the first officers were: President, Mrs. R. W. Chilson; Vice-President, Miss Bell Burrows (Mrs. Strange); Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Roby (Mrs. Brown). Mrs. Chilson has been elected President at each annual election up to the present date.

A constitution was drawn up at once setting forth the object and duties of the chapter. The main points of which are the care of the chancel and choir, not only the furnishing and making of the necessary linens and hangings, but also the sweeping and dusting, the laundering and proper vesting.

During the ten years of the Sanctuary Chapter's existence there has never been a break in its work. Even when the church has been without a rector for several months at a time and the church was closed for services, the chapter has

continued its work as well as possible under the circumstances. In this time the members have earned and contributed something over \$800. In addition to the incidental expenses of flowers for the altar, laundering, etc., the chapter bought the altar, the Bishop's chair and has contributed towards the debt of the church.

At the present time there are eighteen working members and three or four who contribute toward the financial part of the chapter's work, but are unable to help otherwise. The members are divided into sections of three each and take the duties in regular rotation, one calendar month at a time, thus giving each member two months of serving.

It has been the custom for several years for each member to earn at least \$1.00 during Lent, the whole amount to be given as a corporate Easter offering.

The Choir Chapter.

To relieve the Sanctuary Chapter, a society was organized by the Rev. M. M. Goodwin, in the spring of 1892, to take sole charge of the work connected with the choir. It was known as the Choir Chapter. It continued its efficient work until 1897, when the choir of boys and men was disbanded shortly after Easter.

Its first officers were: President, Mrs. Eliza Piper; Vice-President, Mrs. Philip Bury; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. J. M. Rainey.

The St. Martha's Chapter.

The St. Martha's Chapter was organized in the year 1889, and during the time Rev. M. M. Goodwin was rector. Its organization was first suggested among the members of the Sunday-school class then taught by Miss Lucile Durfee. The class was composed of about fourteen young ladies, who became the charter members of the chapter, with Miss Belle Vennigerholz as President and Miss Mabel Smick, Secretary and Treasurer—the first officers chosen. The pur-

pose of the chapter was to lend such assistance as possible to the church by their organized effort. The result of this effort was the selection and purchase of the windows in the Baptistry. Owing to inevitable changes in the personnel of the chapter it was allowed to lapse in the year 1892, leaving a record of having accomplished that which it was organized to effect.

The Woman's Auxiliary.

In November, 1890, under the direction of the rector, the Rev. M. M. Goodwin, the Woman's Auxiliary was organized with thirty members. The first officers were: President, Mrs. M. M. Goodwin; Vice-President, Mrs. J. M. Rainey; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. W. M. Catto. The work of the Auxiliary since its organization has been partly for diocesan missions and partly for the general missions of the church.

Present officers: President, Mrs. S. D. May; First Vice-President, Mrs. E. C. Philbrook; Second Vice-President, Mrs. R. R. Montgomery; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Mary F. Howes.

The chapter numbers to-day some twenty active members. Its meetings are held fortnightly, one meeting in the month being given to work and the other to study of subjects relating to missions. This last year the discussions have been upon China, its religious history and present evangelization.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

St. John's Chapter, No. 381, received its charter from the Council of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew upon Feb. 16, 1890. The charter members numbered five, to whom were added, at the first four meetings, ten more, and before six months the roll was brought up to nineteen members. The first officers were: Rev. M. M. Goodwin, Director; J. Bering Burrows, Treasurer; W. P. Waggoner, Secretary.

"The sole object of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is the

spread of Christ's kingdom among young men, and to this end every man desiring to become a member thereof must pledge himself to observe the two rules of the Brotherhood, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. The Rule of Prayer is to pray daily for the spread of Christ's kingdom among young men, and for God's blessing upon the labors of the Brotherhood. The Rule of Service is to make an earnest effort each week to bring at least one young man within hearing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as set forth in the services of the church and in young men's Bible classes."—(Art. I, Sec. 1, Constitution.)

In 1898 the chapter begun some eight years before was reorganized, applying for and receiving a new charter dated June 23, 1898, and bearing the number of the original charter, 381. The officers then elected and since re-elected are:

Hugh W. Housum,	Director.
Walter B. Shade,	Vice-Director.
Arthur C. Race,	Secretary and Treasurer.

There are ten active and two associate members. Meetings are held every Tuesday night, and are given to business and to Bible study, under the direction of the rector.

Gifts and Memorials

In the Chapel.

The Henry Prather Window—The gift of his widow and designed by Rev. William L. Bostwick.

Inscription: "Behold I Come Quickly." In Memoriam Henry Prather, Died August 30, 1869.

The Cyril Fuller Window—The gift of his old friends in the parish.

Inscription: Cyril Fuller, Senior Warden of this Parish for twenty-seven years. Died June 4, 1882.

The De Wolf Window—The gift of Mrs. Lowber Burrows.

Inscription: Lapis Vivus. In Memoriam William Willis De Wolf, Rector of this Parish, 1872-1875.

The Brass Altar Cross and Vases—The gift of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Quinlan.

Inscription: In Memoriam Ethel C. Quinlan, Born December 2, 1878. Born again May 1, 1879. Born into Life Easter Morning, March 28, 1880.

The Walnut Altar, Lectern and Prayer Desk are the handiwork of the Rev. William L. Bostwick.

The Crimson Cloth Altar Hangings and Antependium, and the Carved Walnut Alms Basins are the gift of Mr. Lowber Burrows, who personally selected them in London in 1873. The embroidery upon the hangings is the loving handiwork of Miss Emily Luttrell.

The Altar Rail, Bishop's Chair and Sedilia are the gift of Messrs. Jasper J. Peddecord and Lowber Burrows.

The Choir Cross is the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Finley Guyton, in memory of her late husband.

In the New Church Buildings—Baptistry

The Seven Windows with Cherub Heads—The gift of the girls of St. Martha's Chapter.

The Marble Font—The gift of the Sunday School.

The Gas and Electric Chandelier—The gift of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Quinlan.

Inscription: In Memoriam Ethel C. Quinlan. December 2, 1878. March 20, 1880.

The Nave—South Side

The Boyd Window—The gift of personal friends.

Inscription: In Memoriam Wm. M. Boyd, Vestryman of this Parish 1842-1889. Subject: "Suffer Little Children to Come unto Me."

The Race Window—The gift of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Race.

Subject: The Angel of the Resurrection. Inscription: To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Flora Race Bashforth. 1859-1886.

The Goodwin Window—The gift of Rev. M. M. Goodwin.

Inscription: In Loving Memory of My Mother, Mary C. Goodwin, by her son, the Rev. M. M. Goodwin. 1815-1884. Subject: Christ among the Doctors.

The Clerestory—Twenty circular windows. The gift of the ladies of the "Saturday Market."

The Great Rose Window in the west front, with the four square windows below, the latter typifying the four Evangelists, the gift of the Ladies' Aid Society, now St. John's Chapter.

By a resolution of the Vestry in 1890, at the suggestion of the building committee, it was declared that the principal windows on the north and south sides of the Nave, if at any time they are desired to be occupied as memorials, must, in such cases, be used *only* in illustration of the following subjects, as sequences in the life of Christ, namely, beginning with the north-east window: 1. The Plains of Bethlehem. 2. The Nativity. 3. Christ Among the Doctors. 4. The Good Shepherd. 5. Christ Blessing Little Children. 6. The Woman at the Well. 7. The Marriage at Cana. 8. The Angel of the Resurrection.

The Brass Pulpit—The gift of Mr. Lowber Burrows and Children.

Inscription: To the Glory of God, and in Thankful Remembrance of Wife and Mother's Restoration to Health, A. D. 1895.

The Hymn Board—The gift of Mrs. Thomas L. Antrim.

Inscription: In Memoriam Ella Koehler Antrim. 1870-1889.

The Brass Lectern—The gift of Mrs. Alice G. Tibbits.

Inscription: In Memoriam Samuel Tibbits.

The Carved Oak Prayer Desk—The gift of Mrs. Susan B. Bobo.

Inscription: In Loving Memory of James A. Young. Died October 10, 1889.

The Brass Faldstool—The gift of personal friends of the Rev. Walter H. Moore.

Inscription: In Memoriam Alice Adrlance, 1879; Walter Adrlance, 1880. Children of the Rev. Walter H. and Julia L. Moore, without Fault Before the Throne of God.

The Copy of the Litany on the Faldstool—The gift of Miss Maude I. Burrows.

In memory of the late Emily Luttrell. 1896.

The Chancel

The twenty-one windows lighting the dome, each being an illuminated mosaic Latin cross, the gift of Mrs. Lowber Burrows.

The Polished Oak Altar—The gift of the Sanctuary Chapter.

The Bishop's Chair—The gift of the Sanctuary Chapter.

The Oak Altar Rail, with metal standards, bracketed with the passion vine and flowers in copper and silver. The gift of the Daughters of the King.

The Brass Credence—The gift of the personal friends of the late Wm. M. Boyd.

Inscription: In Memoriam William M. Boyd. 1842-1889.

The Brass Alms Basin—The gift of the "Daughters of the King."

The Pair of Carved Oak Alms Basins—The gift of the Misses Sarah E. and Caroline L. Allen.

Inscription: In Memoriam Cyena Putnam Allen. 1806-1892.

The Brass Altar Desk—The gift of Mrs. Louise W. Fish.

Inscription: In Memoriam Col. James G. Fish.

The Silver Communion Service, consisting of Chalice, Paten and Wafer Box. The gift of Mrs. Emma P. Warren and^aMr. Giles R. Warren, in memory of the late John K. Warren, a member of the Vestry.

Inscription: To the Glory of God, and in Loving Memory of Husband and Father, John Kirkpatrick Warren. August, 1834. November, 1894. August, 1896.

The Red Morocco Altar Service.

In Memoriam James Cramer, the gift of his widow.

The Tower Entrance

The Oil Portrait of the Late Henry Prather—to whom the Parish is indebted for a part of the valuable property, the site of the old church and rectory on North Water Street—is the gift of his niece, Mrs. Emma Prather Rurode.

The Endowment Fund of the Parish consists of \$1000, bequeathed by the late Amanda W. Prather, widow of Henry Prather, and \$500, bequeathed by the late Emily Luttrell, both of which principal sums are to be kept invested, and the interest *only* to be used towards the payment of the salary of the rector or minister.

Building Fund

Receipts.

From individual subscriptions to the Building Fund	\$11,270.80
From the Ladies' Aid Society.....	200.00
From Easter offerings.....	2,375.37
From sale of buildings on new church lot.....	690.88
From public sale of the site of the old church and rectory on North Water street.....	20,556.20
From organ fund	920.68
Present mortgage loan	7,500.00
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	\$43,513.93

Disbursements.

To contractor for new church building, exclusive of glass and furniture.....	\$19,693.13
To H. F. Starbuck, architect, for plans and specifications, including superintendence.....	850.00
For new church lot, corner of Church and Eldorado streets	5,000.00
For expenses of clearing off the new lot.....	312.50
For concrete sidewalks	298.00
For stained glass windows.....	2,174.55
For pews and furniture.....	1,684.90
For carpets	404.32
For gas and electric fixtures.....	674.26
For decoration of walls of new building.....	385.65
For steam heating	1,263.87
For new organ.....	2,441.10
For removal of chapel to rear of new building and repairs thereon	756.78
For insurance on new church building and chapel..	318.40
For special taxes, street paving and sewerage.....	1,382.21
For interest on prior loans, deficiency in current expenses, diocesan dues and incidentals.....	5,874.26
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	\$43,513.93

Appendix

Copy of Articles of Organization

Decatur, Sept. 10, 1855.

We whose names are hereunto affixed, deeply sensible of the truth of the Christian religion and earnestly desirous of promoting its holy influence in our own hearts and in those of our families and neighbors, do hereby associate ourselves under the name of St. John's Parish, in communion with Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and Diocese of Illinois, the authority of whose constitution and canons we do hereby recognize and to whose liturgy and mode of worship we promise conformity.

Chas. B. Smythe,
C. H. Fuller,
M. S. Fuller,
Wm. Prather,
Cyril Fuller,
Maria Fuller,
James Simpson,
Sarah Simpson,

Emily Luttrell,
Sarah D. Macy,
Elam Rust,
M. L. Foote Rust,
Chas. M. Smith,
J. M. Richardson,
Alex S. Halbert.

I hereby certify that the above association was made under my direction and that it is all in accordance with the canon provided for that purpose.

Stephen R. Child.

Attest:
Wm. Prather,
Clerk of the Vestry.

